UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

OCTOBER
1917

The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

Publication Department
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts

50 CENTS PER YEAR 7 CENTS PER COPY

THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

UNITARIAN WORD AND WORK is regularly issued by the Publication Department of the American Unitarian Association on the first day of each month from October to June inclusive. Subscriptions can begin with any issue. Single copies, 7 cents; Subscription prices: individual subscriptions, 50 cents; in groups of 25 or more from one church, 40 cents each; 50 or more, 35 cents. Address the Publication Department, American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Entered at the Boston Post Office as second class matter

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Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and Unitarian Temperance Society

Vol. 21 OCTOBER, 1917 No. 1

EDITORIAL

WORD AND WORK salutes its readers with confidence and good cheer. The year of church activities beginning this month promises to have, so far as our denominational interests are concerned, a character peculiarly its own. The various national organizations using these pages to announce their plans and record their achievements have rich and far reaching programs to present to the churches.

The circulation of WORD AND WORK has been greatly increased during recent years. It has subscribers in practically all of our Unitarian congregations and it is mailed to individual associate members in all parts of the country. Thus the work that is being done, the plans that are being made and the books and pamphlets being printed are made familiar to hundreds of people who are not living near liberal churches. To the congregations and to the solitary reader of WORD AND WORK our greeting is sincere and cordial. Fate and history have decreed that the liberal faith in this country should have had its organic origin in New England, but there is no reason why it should remain a New England influence. The Pacific Coast has greatly increased its number of Unitarian churches in recent years. So has the South and so have the Canadian provinces. But in these vast areas the congregations are widely separated and need the coördinating ministries of a general body. This general body must of necessity have its headquarters in New England where the great majority of Unitarian churches are located, but when a visitor from afar enters the Unitarian Building in Boston and confers with the national officers he soon learns that the interests of the New England churches claim only a fair proportion of their attention.

Their desks are in Boston, but the solicitude and thought of the executive staff are often devoted to the needs of the congregations far away — in the northwest, on the Pacific coast, among the mountains of the far west, in the southern cities and in the great Missouri and Mississippi valleys. The effort is unceasingly being made by the directors and officers of the A.U.A. to devise ways and means to extend our faith over this great country. To accomplish this end would not only elevate the religious standards of those widely separated communities where liberal interpretations of religion are unknown, but it would widen the outlook and warm and vitalize the sympathies of the New England churches themselves. Our salutation is, therefore, to those in every part of our denominational Zion, where WORD AND WORK carries the news of our united aims and purposes.

The official staff of the American Unitarian Association has already mapped out an admirable campaign of coöperative work for the coming season. In a general way this work arranges itself into three lines of activity.

1. Coöperation with the churches. A

casual study of the Year Book will reveal the interesting methods employed along this line. The executive officers and field secretaries, through correspondence and visitation, are in constant touch with all the churches of our faith that need such assistance and equipment as the Association can afford. New movements, trying to find anchorage in communities where liberal religion is not represented, are organized and promoted until they become established. Churches needing financial help in meeting the larger demands made upon their treasuries, are strengthened through the assistance of the Church Building Loan Fund. Congregations without ministers, and ministers without congregations, receive such services and advice, as may be reasonably looked for at the national headquarters. Lecture tours for the purpose of representing Unitarianism through able preachers who can be relieved for limited periods from their local pastorates, are sent on the Billings Foundation into nearly all parts of the country during the year. Church committees and trustees are invited to receive such advice and expert suggestions as the field agents of the Association, through long experience and familiarity with our methods, entitle them to give. Conferences and institutes requiring the presence of officers who have become familiar with the work of our denomination will receive cordial coöperation. Sunday schools desiring to organize and equip their work according to modern methods will receive invaluable assistance from the officers and publications of the Department of Religious Education. In this department new manuals are provided and the wide and important field of religious instruction is illuminated by able speakers and experienced teachers. Churches requiring advice concerning the music adapted to our requirements and hymn books expressing the elevating inspirations of our faith, can receive at headquarters the material and counsel which has been gathered through years of expert attention.

No denomination has been more carefully and wisely guided by democratic principles than our own. Our system is not the system of authority, but of good-fellowship and friendly counsel. The American Unitarian Association has no authority to command, but it does have the privilege of friendly service. The churches should be fully aware of the relation which they thus hold to their executive co-workers, and make such use of them as their local needs require. A careful reading of the Annual Report of the American Unitarian Association on the part of church committees and Sunday-school superintendents would impart a desire to equip and conduct local churches for increased efficiency. These reports are sent to the churches in such numbers as are required, and the members of the congregations are earnestly requested to give them the reasonable and studious attention that they deserve.

2. The second line of activity through which the national body aims to be of service to the churches is through its publications. The catalogue of Free Tracts offers material with which every Unitarian should be familiar. It has come into existence only after many years of careful selective effort and discrimination on the part of competent students of our faith. In its preparation the counsel and assistance of many ministers, Post Office Mission workers, Cheerful Letter writers, missionaries, Social Service experts, and representatives of our foreign relations have been employed. If it were to remain as it is, without further additions, it would be of practical service for years to come. Courses of study in liberal religion could easily be arranged from this list. Few questions concerning the nature of Unitarianism are omitted. Hundreds of ministers in other churches have been emancipated by the reading of these pamphlets, and not a few of our ablest preachers have entered our fellowship through their agency.

Also, as may be seen by consulting the General Catalogue of the Association publications, many books dealing with the vital principles of religion in general and liberal Christianity in particular, can

be obtained at headquarters by those who desire them. A wider distribution of these books shoud be secured through our congregations. Loyal Unitarians should read and recommend them, and thus assist in conveying the much-needed influence of our thought and faith beyond the limits of our own congregations.

3. The third avenue of our influence and one in which we should take a special interest and pride at the present time is that of practical service. Mr. Forbes, the secretary of our Department of Community Service, through information received from the various ministers of our churches, will compile an instructive list of the practical efforts being made by churches and ministers in the national service and in war relief work. This service by Mr. Forbes will enable us to realize that our Unitarian pastors and their flocks are not indifferent to the numerous demands which are being made upon the American people. The Department of Community Service will this year lay the emphasis of its work upon the urgent needs of the hour, occasioned by the war. Already it is coöperating with the Fosdycke Committee at Ayer, and is at work through the Boston Committee of the War Department. Forty thousand dollars has been raised to coöperate with the Y.M.C.A. in their hut work and thousands of dollars which have not been entered upon our denominational list of contributions have been given by individuals in our churches towards similar work. In some respects the service which we can render this year as members of the liberal church attains an importance unknown since the days of the Civil War. Let our record be a good one. The annals of Unitarianism demonstrate that the liberal faith is one that proves its value by the fruit it yields.

Our outlook is towards the future, rather than the past, and we seek through every possible method to make this a better and a safer world for our children to live in. The world to come has too long been the goal of effort on the part of Christian churches. Unitarians are quite sure that their present practical interest should be bestowed upon the world in which we are now living, trusting that our duty well done here and now, will assure us the highest felicity in the world which is to be.

The General Conference at Montreal

FOR the first time in its history, the General Conference of Unitarian and Other Christian Churches will be held in a foreign country. The program which has been presented is more than interesting. It is to be an impressive occasion since it will become a vital factor in the future relations between this country and Canada. It will occur at Montreal, September 25th-28th, inclusive.

Ex-president William H. Taft will be the presiding officer. The Premier of Canada, Sir Robert Borden, will be one of the speakers. These two personalities alone will give the Conference international significance. Liberal Americans should attend in large numbers. We are assured of a cordial welcome. The most able and eloquent speakers of our household of the faith will be upon the program, and we may anticipate with confidence that the right word will be spoken and that a sense of our interdependence, as two kindred nations, will be so clearly defined that the spirit of brotherhood will become strengthened and the most important element of our Christian inheritance will find expression. It will be worth some financial sacrifice on the part of many to contribute by their presence to the influence for good which this Conference will create. A special train will leave Boston on the 25th and already a large attendance has been registered. Let the churches of the United States view this enterprise with seriousness. It will mean something greater and grander than mere denominational growth, for it points towards those readjustments among the nations of the world which signify the final cessation of war.

American Unitarian Association

Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D. D., *President* — Henry M. Williams, *Treasurer*
Rev. Louis C. Cornish, *Secretary* — W. Forbes Robertson, *Assistant Secretary*

Ministerial Personals

The Unitarian fellowship has lost by death during the summer five of its veteran ministers: Rev. James G. Townsend, D.D., died at Jamestown, N. Y., on June 26; Rev. Elisha Gifford died at New Haven, Conn., on July 12; Rev. William H. Ramsay died at Wellesley Hills, Mass., on July 14; Rev. J. L. Seward, D.D., died at Keene, N. H., on July 14; Rev. A. E. Mullett died at Boston on July 30.

The following resignations have taken place during the summer: Rev. P. D. Dansingberg at Kansas City, Mo.; Rev. P. H. Drake at Christ Church, Dorchester; Rev. H. W. Pinkham at Melrose, Mass.; Rev. J. M. Heady at Salem, Ore.; Rev. H. C. Rehm at Colorado Springs, Col.; Rev. J. A. Kyle at Davenport, Ia.; Rev. E. N. Cosgrove at Helena, Mont.; Rev. K. Oosterhuis at Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Rev. Francis Watry at Long Beach, Cal.

The following calls have been accepted: Rev. F. A. Gilmore became the Field Secretary of the American Unitarian Association for the Department of the Middle States and Canada on September 15; Rev. F. R. Griffin of Montreal goes to the First Church, Philadelphia, on October 1; Dr. Howard A. Pease goes from Ithaca, N. Y., to Fitchburg, Mass.; Rev. Bradley Gilman goes from Canton, Mass., to Palo Alto, Cal.; Mr. William Yerrington goes to Kalamazoo, Mich.; Rev. Charles E. Luck, formerly of the Congregational fellowship, goes to Lawrence, Kan.; and Rev. N. A. Baker goes from Santa Ana, Cal., to Bellingham, Wash.

Of the graduating class at the Meadville Theological School Mr. C. H. Valentine goes to Vineland, N. J.; Mr. V. B. Silliman goes to St. Cloud, Minn.; Mr. L. H. Denny goes to Rochester, N. Y.; and Mr. A. T. Brown goes to Evanston, Ill. Mr. N. J. Springer becomes the Field Secretary of the Young People's Religious Union. Mr. E. L. Bowden, of the graduating class at the Pacific Unitarian School, has already taken charge at Victoria, B.C.

Mr. Leon S. Pratt was ordained and installed minister at the North Unitarian Church in New Bedford, Mass., on June 17.

Mr. R. M. L. Holt was ordained and installed minister at Rowe, Mass., on June 21.

Buildings

A charming stone chapel was dedicated at Ocean Point, Me., on Sunday, August 5. It was built by friends and summer residents in memory of Mrs. Lewis G. Wilson.

The new building of the Church of the Unity in St. Louis, Mo., will be dedicated on October 7. The new church at Schenectady, N. Y., is roofed in and the walls of the church at Sanford, Me., are rising. The contract has been let for the building of the new church at Omaha, Neb. The working drawings have been prepared for the church at White Plains, N. Y., and it is hoped that work can begin soon. The First Church in Roxbury has acquired an attractive parsonage.

The Association has purchased lots for possible new buildings at Houston, Tex., Lynchburg, Va., and Charleston, W. Va.

The society at Hartford, Conn., has sold its property for a handsome sum and is planning for a new church. The church and parish house at Watertown, Mass., have been painted and renovated.

Anniversaries

The First Parish at Norwell, Mass., celebrated its Two Hundred and Seventy-fifth Anniversary on August 19. The First Congregational Society at Brookfield, Mass., is to celebrate its Two Hundredth Anniversary on October 14,

and the First Congregational Parish of Kingston, Mass., observes the same anniversary on November 8.

Appointments

The summer preaching appointments of the President of the Association have been at Williamstown, East Lexington, and Manchester, Mass.; Dublin, N. H.; Ellsworth, Ocean Point, Northeast Harbor, and Castine, Maine; Newport, R. I., and Arlington Street in Boston. He also made one journey westward as far as Madison, Wis., visiting the training camps and speaking at several of them. After the meeting of the General Conference at Montreal Dr. Eliot goes to St. Louis for the dedication of the new Church of the Unity on Sunday, October 7, returning at once to Boston for the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 9, the Worcester Conference at Lancaster on October 11, and the anniversary services at Brookfield, Mass., on October 14. During the week of October 20 he will be at the Mohonk Conference at Lake Mohonk, N. Y.

Field Secretary Brown spent July and August in charge of the Unitarian House at Chautauqua, N. Y. During September he has visited and spoken at Pittsburg, Pa.; Canton, Ohio; and Wilmington, Del. After the Montreal Conference Mr. Brown goes westward, with appointments at Pittsburg, Wheeling, Nashvile, Memphis, Little Rock, and Oklahoma, where he is to be on October 5. Thence he goes to Colorado, Utah and Montana.

Mr. Gilmore, the newly appointed Field Secretary, took charge of the New York office on September 15. His first Sundays were given to Poughkeepsie and White Plains, N. Y. After the Montreal Conference he expects to keep appointments at Ottawa on Sunday, September 30, and then to follow the line indicated by visits to the churches at Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo, Dunkirk, Erie, Meadville, Pittsburg, Wheeling, Northumberland, Lancaster, Philadelphia, and Trenton, back to New York. In November Mr. Gilmore hopes to visit the churches in New York State, and thus to become as fully as possible acquainted with his new field of service.

Field Secretary Nobbs has been occupied with work in the New England field, and has recently given his especial attention to Worcester and Uxbridge, Mass.; Laconia, N. H. and Sanford, Maine. He is to leave in the middle of October for a journey in the southern seaboard states, with appointments at Chattanooga, Nashville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Charleston, and with visits to some of the training camps in the south.

The secretary of the Department of Publicity, Mr. Saunderson, has been at work on the details of the plans for the Wayside Pulpit described elsewhere in this issue. He conducted the week of meeting for ministers at Andover, N. H. and has preached ten times during the summer including appointments at York Harbor, Bar Harbor, Sullivan Harbor and Hancock Point, Maine.

While the main purpose of the Conference properly takes precedence over all other considerations, nonetheless other considerations may well play a part in attending the Conference. Montreal is one of the most beautiful cities of North America, as well as one of the most interesting places historically. Our church is a unique structure, dignified with unusual memorials. To their number will be added a tablet, given by the Conference in recognition of a century of peaceful co-operation between the United States and Canada. There will be ample opportunities for sight-seeing.

An extension of these privileges has been arranged in a trip up the Saguenay River to occupy three days following the Conference. It is understood that up to the tenth of September over one hundred and fifty had secured their accommodations on the special steamer.

It is gratifying to learn that many parishes are sending their ministers and the ministers' wives. It is earnestly to be hoped that every parish that can possibly do so will make this arrange-

ment. The Conference is a source of great spiritual refreshment and uplift, as well as of pleasure.

SEND YOUR MINISTER TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Department of Community Service

The third Social Service Institute under the auspices of the Meadville Theological School and the Department of Community Service was held at Meadville, July 21 to August 16. The first week was devoted to case work, or personal service for the unfortunate; the second week to community service, or the betterment of social conditions; and the last week to international social service, or the upbuilding of the world after the war. In addition Rev. William L. Sullivan gave a series of addresses of special interest to the Senior class of the school, although they were thoroughly enjoyed by all the members of the Institute. His topics were "The Minister's Quiet Hour," "Responsibility for Inner Discipline," "Responsibility for Public Utterance," and "Our need of Fortitude." Mr. Sullivan brought to these discussions the rich experience of years of teaching and gave to the young men a point of view which will prove of substantial value to them. His final lecture, closing the public meetings of the Institute, on "Educational and Religious Factors in the Reconstruction of the World after the War," was of great interest and addressed to what was probably the largest audience of the session. Rev. Celia Parker Woolley had a particularly timely lecture on certain phases of the negro problem. Dr. Frankwood E. Williams had expected to deliver a course of lectures on subjects concerning mental hygiene but was requisitioned by the government and at the last moment was compelled to cancel his engagement. Professor Anna Garlin Spencer discussed with the interest and acuteness which characterizes all her work a number of topics concerning nervous disorders of different kinds. Rev. Charles E. Snyder spoke interestingly on Spiritualism and Christian Science.

As was to have been expected the registration this year was not as large as in previous years, still ten States and one Province were represented, and all who attended were there for work. While the Institute does not address large numbers and probably cannot, as Meadville is somewhat off the lines of main travel, yet it is exercising a steadily increasing influence. Especially is it valuable because it brings to the school distinguished exponents of modern thought and gives to the graduating class a comprehensive survey of important questions which it would not be possible for them to get in any other way. The Institute is well worth while if it had no other members than the students of the school. As a matter of fact, however, there is always present a group of ministers and parish workers who carry away with them many useful suggestions for the furtherance of their own work. It is to be hoped that the Institute may be continued for many years to come.

The work of the department in the coming winter will necessarily be affected by the necessities arising from the war. The Secretary is giving personal attention to the work of the Christian Federation of Ayer, is serving on the Executive Committee of the Boston Committee on Training Camp Activities, and is also serving on several other war committees.

The Christian Federation of Ayer is an organization including all the Protestant churches of Ayer for the purpose of dealing with the special problems which the mobilization camp has brought to the town. Six denominations, including the Unitarian, are working together in complete harmony and goodwill to serve the public need to the extent of their ability. A tent has been erected on the main highway between the town and Camp Devens with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty. On Sunday nights a religious service is held, and it is proposed to bring to this service the most distinguished speakers that can be obtained. During the week the tent serves as a lounging room for soldiers who may be on the street, a place where they can read and write or sit comfort-

ably and talk. It is also a rest room and meeting-place for friends of the soldiers who come to Ayer to visit them. At the time this was written the tent had only been in use about a week and already the attendance averaged one hundred per day. Larger plans are being worked out of which description will be given later.

During the month the Secretary of the Department has addressed a letter to the active ministers of our churches, asking for information as to what war service they and their churches are rendering. This is an interesting and important inquiry and it is hoped that every one will respond.

As usual Mr. Forbes will be glad to respond to any call which may come to him having reference to community service. He is prepared to speak on community service topics, also on the American-Japanese question, the Work of our Churches in War Time, and the Church and Alcohol.

Department of Religious Education

The Summer Institutes of Religious Education were this year of excellent quality. At Andover the attendance was the largest we have had, and the proportion of actual Sunday-school workers present was unusually high. Dr. Forbush quite captured his hearers by his breezy way of putting important truths. His easy mastery of the wide field of religious culture, from birth to maturity, appeared in every lecture. The same was true at Meadville, where attendance at his evening meetings, which were open to the public, grew from a baker's dozen of the town's people at the start to an audience that taxed the seating capacity of the largest halls the Divinity School could provide. His class-lectures, while less popular, were more highly instructive, giving the teachers precisely the hints they needed to help them in their Sunday-school work.

At the Meadville Institute also, the attendance, while somewhat less than that of a year ago, was wholly made up of Sunday-school workers, not a single onlooker or casually interested person being present. Such a group constitutes a challenge to a speaker, and as a result the instruction given by all the lectures was unusually direct and practical. Dr. Forbush, President Southworth, Professors Spencer and Bowen, and the Secretary and Associate Secretary of this Department, gave most of the lectures at these two Institutes, and Prof. Kirsopp Lake, Miss Mary Lawrance, Reverends Manley B. Townsend and Charles E. Snyder, Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Shelander also took part in the programs. The progress of these Institutes from year to year in the direction of practical helpfulness is marked, and is the occasion of much satisfaction.

A reprint of the Catalogue of the publications of this Department has just appeared and has been sent to all superintendents. It may be had by any one on application, and should be in the hand of ministers, parents, and all others interested in the right guidance of the young. It is not a mere list of manuals, with descriptions and prices, but is so arranged as to be a guide to the proper grading of a school, as well as to the choice of such material for use by children as will at once be within their comprehension and helpful in the formation of their characters. Its careful reading is urgently recommended. We have now a body of teaching material of which Unitarians may well be proud. Leaders in religious education in other denominations are unstinted in its praise. Our schools are urged to use this material, not only as an act of denominational loyalty but because they will thereby provide what we (and others) regard as the best teaching material in existence for the young people of our churches.

Four new books in the Beacon Course are now in the hands of the officers of the Department and are being pressed to publication with all possible speed. During the heated term, while most ministers were enjoying much-needed vacations, the Secretary and Associate Secretary have been at their desks preparing these manuals for the press. Mr. Vail's book for pupils of eleven is now

in page-proof. Miss Poor's and Mrs. Guild's book for the Kindergarten is all in manuscript form, waiting the completion of a few minor details before being given to the printer. Mrs. Cabot's manuscript of a book for the age of fifteen and Miss Cobb's for nine lack only a few finishing touches. Only the necessary limitations of human strength and printers' delays are now to be reckoned with. Mr. Vail's book will be ready soon after our schools open and the others as soon thereafter as possible.

Religious Education is to be ably presented at the Montreal Conference. Prof. Durant Drake, of Vassar College, is to speak on Thursday forenoon on "The Aim of Religious Education," and the Associate Secretary of this Department, Rev. Florence Buck, will open the discussion. A display of our manuals will be made during the Conference, and inquirers will find Miss Buck ready to give any assistance possible in the solution of their problems. The stimulus of the great gathering at Montreal ought to be felt in our Sunday schools, as well as in other phases of our church work.

The Autumn Meeting of the Unitarian Sunday School Society will be held in Channing Hall, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, on the forenoon and afternoon of Tuesday, October 16. It is planned that the forenoon session shall be devoted to the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. At the afternoon session some of the modern attempts to make God a vital force will be considered.

The four hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation will doubtless be celebrated in many of our Sunday schools and churches. To provide material for these celebrations, the Association has published a *Service of Praise*, which may be used in church or in the school, or at any public gathering. This Service is furnished without cost to our churches, on request. We are also publishing "Pageant Scenes for the Observance of the four hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation." These scenes were written by Miss Marjorie Young, and comprise a Prelude, an Episode in which Luther appears and nails his Theses to the church door, and an Epilogue. Several leading characters in that striking episode are represented, and the whole is highly commended for its dramatic interest and its educational value. It sells for ten cents a copy.

The Department has also secured about two hundred stereopticon slides, representing the life of Martin Luther and the beginnings of the Reformation. These slides are divided into six groups, each with between thirty and forty pictures. By this arrangement, schools or churches wishing to continue the celebration through several weeks can use the groups or sets in succession. They are thus divided, also, in order that as many as six schools may use them on the same day. As there will probably be a considerable call for them within the few weeks that the Quadri-centennial is being celebrated, those wishing to use them are advised to send in their applications as soon as possible. No charge is made for the use of the slides, but users will be expected to cover transportation and breakage.

A Notable Anniversary

The Reverend and Mrs. Richard Elliott Birks of Bernardston, Massachusetts, on the 10th of September celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. Many personal letters and gifts were sent to them, including gifts of gold from the ministers of the Connecticut Valley, the Masonic Lodge, and the churches in Deerfield, Montague, and Bernardston. Among these gifts was a testimonial from the ministers in our fellowship, which reads as follows:

"Upon the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of the Reverend and Mrs. Richard Elliott Birks, September the tenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, the ministers of the Unitarian Fellowship in the United States and Canada, desire to express to them their most hearty congratulations and best wishes, and they gladly take this opportunity to place upon record their deep appreciation for

the half century of active service in the Christian ministry which Mr. and Mrs. Birks have given to the cause of pure religion, the cause for which our churches stand. Devout, forgetful of self, able, diligent, and fertile in resource, making many rich in spirit and many glad of heart, Mr. and Mrs. Birks have honorably exemplified the high faith in God which they have professed, and we of the same household of faith, in deep appreciation of all that they are and of all that they have done, gratefully subscribe ourselves their debtors."

These resolutions and the signatures appended filled a substantial vellum covered book, handsomely tooled. The signatures of practically all of our ministers are contained within its covers. Unfortunately some of the brethren had not returned from their vacations and did not have the opportunity to sign the book before the anniversary.

This outpouring of affection and congratulations testified to a remarkable service. Mr. Birks was born at Stoney Middleton, Derbyshire, England, in 1846, the son of the Rev. William Birks, an honored Unitarian minister. He studied at a number of schools and seminaries, and early entered the work of the Christian ministry, although he was not formally ordained until 1872 at Topsham, Devon. He held pastorates at Northampton, Tamworth, Chichester, Gloucester, Douglas, and Rawtenstall. In 1896 he became minister of the church in Bernardston, Massachusetts. After a successful pastorate of five years he accepted a call to Deerfield. Here again he did excellent work. In 1913 he accepted a call to Montague, where he served faithfully for three years. A year ago, 1916, feeling somewhat the weight of his increasing years, he retired. His work in England richly merits praise. In this country he has given his time and strength unstintedly to his churches, the life of the towns in which he lived, and to the needs of the entire region. He has been a true type of the country pastor, serving with great ability in fields where the reward of fame or money could not be expected, but where he has won rich rewards in affection and appreciation. Although not ordained until 1872 he has served more than fifty years in the Christian ministry. In the labors of the ministry Mrs. Birks has richly shared. Theirs is a life work performed together.

Long may the afternoon years continue for Mr. and Mrs. Birks, who by their loving service have so richly merited the esteem in which they are universally held.

Conferences

The Conference dates as announced are as follows: The Iowa Conference at Griswold, Ia., October 2nd to 4th; the Worcester Conference at Lancaster, Mass., October 11th; the Illinois Conference at Sheffield, Ill., October 16th and 17th; the Michigan Conference at Toledo, O., October 23d and 24th; and the Plymouth and Bay Conference at Kingston, Mass. on November 8th.

The Wayside Pulpit

This new method of sowing the seed of our thought will be put into general use about the first of October. More than one hundred of our churches are joining in this promising movement. Former numbers of WORD AND WORK have given, in detail, the plans of the Department of Publicity for providing the material things necessary. The secretary of the department, Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson, has also carried on an extensive correspondence, answering questions and completing arrangements.

Briefly summed up, the plans that have been announced are that the churches provide bulletin boards of a uniform size and the Association provides, without charge, printed sheets for use in them. The bulletin boards, also, will be built for the churches by a manufacturer employed by the Association, the churches paying the cost of the boards.

A number of boards have been built for churches which prefer to order through the Association; other churches have built their own. Blue-prints and full directions are furnished free to

churches which wish to build their boards locally.

A new feature is now announced for the first time: Churches may have a "changeable letter" device added to their Wayside Pulpit. From the detailed announcements already made, it will be recalled that the essential feature of the Wayside Pulpit is a board 32 inches high and 44 inches horizontally; this board being removable from its frame. To this board, printed sheets are attached at will. The new feature now announced is a rack *of the same dimensions* which can be put into the frame, when desired, instead of the board. This rack carries the changeable letters.

This rack can thus be carried into the church, and any special announcement prepared on it. The board with the printed sheet can then be removed from the frame, and the rack carrying the special announcement put into the frame. When the special announcement has served its purpose, the board with the printed sheet may then be restored to its place.

The advantage of this is obvious. The printed sheets are to be furnished at the rate of one a week. Presumably a new one will be placed after the Sunday service; then if there be a mid-week meeting, the changeable letter announcement can be put in place when desired. When that is over, the printed sheet on the board is replaced. As Sunday approaches, sermon subjects can be set up in changeable letters, and placed when ready. Thus the Wayside Pulpit is adapted to continuous utterance.

All correspondence concerning the Wayside Pulpit should be addressed to Henry Hallam Saunderson, Secretary of the Department of Publicity, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. He is prepared to receive orders for the printed sheets, the bulletin boards and the changeable letter device, and will also furnish the blue-prints and directions for churches that wish to build their own bulletin boards.

The New Hymn and Tune Book

Publication Department

It is hoped that the churches which have not yet felt that they can install the *New Hymn and Tune Book* will be able to do so in the near future. Originally published at the time when the cost of material was considerably lower than at present, it has been possible to offer this book to the churches at a price that could not be possible under the present conditions. We know of no other collection of hymns and services that is better adapted for use during these times. It is especially rich in hymns for national occasions and in hymns expressive of courage and devotion, consecration and service.

Word and Work

Last year the average number of subscriptions was 7,000. This year we hope that this number can and will be increased to 10,000 copies. This will necessitate an average increase in each church of ten. Some of the churches will not be able to increase the number of subscribers, so it will be necessary for each church to make the maximum individual effort. Here is a chance to enlist the services of some of the young people and furnish them with an opportunity to participate actively in one of the important branches of our work. Subscription forms have been sent to each minister.

The Bi-Pocket Envelope System

Churches of other denominations seem to have adopted this system with much more enthusiasm than those of our fellowship. Many of the churches of other denominations have even installed the system in the Sunday schools. It is essentially democratic and in addition is a great assistance to the treasurer, as the revenue upon which the church can depend is definitely fixed. It is also possible to combine this system with others that may now exist in the respective churches.

The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss Lucy Lowell, *President*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Lucia Clapp Noyes, *Treasurer*
11 St. John St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Mrs. Robert H. Davis, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

Greeting

This first number of Word and Work will reach the Branches as they are beginning, or about to begin, their year's work. It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to send greetings to one and all, with the hope that the year will be one of activity, and that the usual Alliance meetings will not be neglected for the war relief work in which we shall be absorbed.

It has been my privilege, during the summer, to receive letters from Alliance women in all parts of the country, from Canada to Texas, from Maine to California, and the fellowship expressed in such letters seems to me one of the most important things in The Alliance, proving as it does that we are members of one body, parts of one great whole. Will not each Alliance woman seize her every chance to increase co-operation and fellowship? If she will we are certain to grow in numbers and in the spirit which is at the heart of all true Alliance work.

Lucy Lowell,
President of The Alliance.

"The frank blessing of the hill
Fall on you as fall it will
'Tis the law of bush and stone
Each can only take his own."

Many of our communion are of the fortunate who are able to receive the frank blessings of hill and sea, of country lane and harvest field during the vacation months. Let us covenant together to return in thought day by day through the working months of the year for the frank blessing which alone can bring back the serenity and the power of our summer thoughts.

Since its inception The Alliance has always been counted upon to keep our household hearth fire burning. In times of controversy or discouragement our fire must burn with an uncommon glow. Let us remember our high privilege, at this time when difficulties multiply and shades of differences of opinion are among us and upon questions so vital that we must perforce speak our minds. Serious financial questions beset our churches, and in a condition where it is a patriotic necessity to give to national calls we wonder how our financial obligations are to be met. Many of us are suffering deep personal anxiety for the lives of those nearest to us and the deeps are shaken within us.

In this condition let us women of The Alliance stand firm. Let us go to church on Sunday. Let us help our ministers to be true to themselves in being true to their deepest convictions. Let us assist in the Sunday school. Let us abate no bit of the social life of our churches. Let us draw to us as never before the stranger within our gates. And let us seize every opportunity for meeting together in the Christian fellowship which has always been our support. Let us do these things with a cheer, a courage, a steadfast patience that will make our church life grow in strength to an invincibility able to withstand the unusual shocks put upon it by the sorrow and suffering of this year.

Our Alliance programs may be less elaborate at this time when our hearts and minds are full if we are sure that they grow in vitality. The president of each branch will make it her personal service to see that each meeting is a center of power and strength sending away those present refreshed to meet the difficulties of daily living.

We have deep wells to draw upon fo we have always believed that the stored thought of our great writers has a unique power of blessing. The very best of our splendid sequence of hymns will be drawn upon for the service, and selections will be read from the nearly inexhaustible store of our religious philosophy.

As Unitarian women ours is a heritage of being as well as of doing. We are rising all over the land to meet squarely and to help others to meet the daily challenge of living in this year of grace. And every Alliance program must be planned and executed to help us.

Social Service for Our Soldiers

The plans of the Social Service Committee are for immediately practical work among our soldiers.

All Alliance branches are asked to look after the boys in their own churches who have enlisted. Consider whether they are as comfortable in camp as we can make them. Have they plenty of magazines, books, and the knitted comforts which mitigate the difficulties of camp life? All of our boys appreciate letters and post cards and good things to eat sent them by church friends. Make their sacrifice easier by a frequent message to let the boys know we are thinking of them.

Branches are urged to make plans at once for sending Christmas boxes to our boys over seas. Also the Social Service Committee hopes that the knitting which has been carried on through the summer will continue with enthusiasm at Alliance meetings and at home throughout the fall and winter.

The families of soldiers who have enlisted from our church groups will of course be known to the local branches and every effort will be made to give them comfort and cheer.

Since the beginning of the war the Montreal Church has published in its calendar a "Roll of Honor" containing the names of all men and women from that church who are serving in the war. The names of nurses and soldiers both are included. In our American churches such a roll might contain as well the rnames of men and women who are giving their services in other departments of the National Defense.

International Fellowship

The British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women has through its Fellowship department accomplished a much appreciated work for members and friends of the Canadian and other overseas churches who have gone to France or elsewhere for military service.

Each name sent is given to some lady in London or elsewhere, who undertakes to keep in touch with the man while abroad, and if he goes to London to show him whatever kindly attention or hospitality is in her power. Some of the correspondents not only write to the men, but send parcels and papers, and have done their best to look men up if they have gone into hospitals.

Word now comes that the League would be very glad to be of like service to men from the Unitarian Churches of the United States who may come over. Branches are invited and urged to send names and full addresses (abroad) of such men as have not already friends or acquaintances in England, who would be glad to make them in this way.

Names may be sent to
Miss Helen Brooke Herford,
Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand
London, W. C.
England.

Miss Herford's invitation will meet with a ready response from our branches. Ever since the war began frequent comment has been made in these columns upon the splendidly self-sacrificing service furnished by the organizations of women who make up our international fellowship. The Alliance has each year sent a donation to help on the work of the International Union and now that our own need has come we shall accept with gratitude the assistance of the English women of one faith with whom we have been so long and affectionately associated.

The Junior Alliance

Junior Alliances are now making plans for the coming season. Will any who are starting new and interesting undertakings please write about them to Miss M. F. Gill, 378 Canton Ave., Milton, Mass., so that others may benefit by their suggestions? Also remember to send the names of plays and other entertainments that have proved successful.

Executive Board

At the regular meeting held June 8, 1917, there were present: Miss Lowell, presiding, Mmes. Keyes, Peterson, Noyes, Atherton, Phalen, Wadsworth, Bacon, Bailey, Blair, Bouvé, Boyd, Bullock, Coolidge, Edgcomb, Faulk, Hayes, Henry, Houghton, Kimball, Sawyer, Stearns, Whiting, Whitman, and Mrs. Catlin.

The Treasurer announced the investment of one thousand dollars in Liberty Loan bonds. A bequest was reported from Miss Georgianna Merrill of Boston, one of the early devoted friends of the National Alliance.

Miss Patty Wilcox has been made a life member by the New Bedford, Mass. branch. The name of Mrs. Amasa M. Eaton has been placed *in memoriam* by the First Congregational branch, Providence, R. I.

Standing committees were chosen and the full list may be found in the Manual. It was voted to discontinue the Conference and Editorial committees.

Mrs. Peterson reported for the Southern Circuit committee the gift of an organ from the American Unitarian Association for Rock Bluffs, Fla.

In accordance with the recommendation of the former Board, it was voted that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to be a committee on speakers, to prepare a list of speakers and assist branches to have the various lines of Alliance work presented. Mrs. Atherton, Mrs. Blair, and Miss Sawyer were appointed.

On the recommendation of the former Board it was voted that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to consider and report on amending the by-laws to do away with plural voting. To the same committee was referred the matter of defining the duties of vice-presidents. Mrs. Gilson, Mrs. Voigt, and Mrs. Ware were appointed.

It was voted that hereafter reports shall be due as follows: In November, from Rocky Mountains and six Massachusetts directors; in December, from Southern States and six Massachusetts; in January, Middle States and Canada; in February, Pacific Coast and six Massachusetts; in March, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and four Massachusetts; in April, Western States and two Massachusetts.

Votes of thanks were passed to the First Church in Boston for its hospitality on the occasion of the annual business meeting, May 23, 1917; to the organist of that church, Mr. John P. Marshall, who gave his services; to the speakers of the Alliance public meeting, May 21; and to Mrs. Joel H. Metcalf for assisting with the singing at both meetings. A letter of appreciation was voted to the untiring chairman of ushers and arrangements for the meetings, Mrs. George R. Dinsmoor.

The Board put on record by formal vote its sympathy with the effort to dispose of Liberty Loan bonds.

It was voted to adopt the recommendation of the Headquarters Committee that a third clerk be employed in the office, Room 10, for half time, to have charge of accounts under the Treasurer.

It was voted that the committee on Traveling be continued, to consist of the President, the two Secretaries, and the Treasurer.

It was voted to create a committee on Endowment Fund Income, to determine how this income shall be apportioned, to consist of Miss Bancroft, chairman, the President, and the Treasurer.

It was voted not to hold a Board meeting in Montreal but to have the regular meeting September 14, 1917, in Boston. The October meeting was assigned to the nineteenth on account of the holiday the previous week.

A letter from the new branch at Northumberland, Pa., told of the death of the beloved minister, Rev. H. D.

Catlin, but in spite of this loss the branch hopes to hold together and have meetings.

A call was received through the American Unitarian Association for books for our soldiers in the Canal Zone. Any and every kind of good books the letter says will be of use. Send to Rev. Clifford Lore Miller, Chaplain 5th U. S. Infantry, Empire, Panama, Canal Zone.

Mrs. Charles T. Catlin after expressing her constant interest in The Alliance presented a set of photographs of the officers of 1913, which will be kept with the Alliance album at headquarters.

Attention was called to the Alliance luncheon in Montreal, September 26.

Adjourned till September 14.

CAROLINE ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary.

The fall meeting of the New England Associate Alliance will be held in Keene, New Hampshire, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 17th and 18th.

Rev. William L. Sullivan of New York will give the address at the evening meeting on Wednesday. Miss Sarah Whitman and Mr. Allen French will be the speakers on Thursday.

The Keene Branch is most hospitable and is hoping for a large gathering. Those planning to spend the night in Keene are requested to communicate with Mrs. F. M. Hamilton, 74 Dover Street, Keene, New Hampshire, that accommodations may be arranged for them.

News from the Branches

Various of our New England branches have their annual fairs always in the summer when summer visitors and old friends of the church are near to swell the receipts with their patronage. The Walpole, New Hampshire, Branch desires to express the appreciation of its members for the very kind response of the sister branches to a request for contributions for a parcel post table at their August fair.

Not everybody remembers in the discussion of pioneer Alliance work in new lands, that we have a developing Unitarian movement of this type in Aroostook County, the pioneer country of Northern Maine, where the farmlands are still new enough to be yellow with ripening wheat-fields at this season, and where the potato is king.

Unitarianism in this country is encountering far more the conditions of the west than those familiar in other sections of the east. There are the great distances, the farming population, and the few hands which must do the work of many, which Unitarians have learned to associate with our situations in the western country. In these conditions the Presque Isle Branch reorganized last year has developed sturdily. Mrs. Myrtle White, the secretary of the branch, who is actively connected with all the progressive life of her town and county writes that the branch has given a dance, a supper and an apron sale besides carrying on the usual activities of The Alliance.

Mrs. Wicks reports from Indianapolis: "Our Alliance family is growing up. Our committees have outgrown their clothes and their shoes cost more this year. They are no longer satisfied with simple toys but must now have steam tables to play with and new painted walls to play in. Our former baby, the Junior Alliance, is now big enough to give suppers all by itself and take charge of candy sales. We have a new baby, a Boy Scout Troup, which is rapidly gaining strength. Everything we do is a size larger and costs more effort. Some of our older children are now quite useful citizens, two of the daughters, the Refection Committee and the Young People's Party Committee are not only self-supporting but contribute to the upbuilding of the home. Our birthday parties help so much to make us feel like a family. The third weekly luncheon of the month is always a Birthday Luncheon with ice-cream, and a cake with candles. The birthday children (ages running from three to eighty years) of each month are placed in the seats of honor behind the cake and are encouraged, *not* urged, to reply to their toasts. We have given $25 to the American Unitarian Associ-

ation for missionary work and $300 to our church besides answering all appeals sent to us and recommended by the National Board. We have held fairs and listened to programs and sewed for charity and given suppers, and the harder we have worked the happier we have grown."

Last winter the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Church, held what was termed a "Liberal Revival." Rev. John Haynes Holmes occupied the pulpit for two evenings, and Rev. Samuel McChord Crothers, for three. Each service was attended by 450 people, the capacity of the church. The Woman's Alliance took charge of the receptions which followed these five services.

A little later the annual social meetings of The Alliance were held and these furnished convincing proof of the benefits of the five February meetings, for there were ninety who responded to the invitation, among them many new in Unitarian circles. Two more evening services were held, at which time Rev. Albert R. Vail of Urbana, Illinois, occupied the pulpit. The Alliance women feel confident that the earnest efforts of the small group of men and women who have worked so long and loyally this year will bear fruits next year in a larger membership for both church and Alliance and deeper religious enthusiasm.

The small branches of Michigan seem full of needs; and yet so full of vital flames of Liberalism. When you think of those little bands of Alliance women, with no Minister or Church to hold them, meeting year in and year out, the longing to go out and help is indeed strong within you. One at Brooklyn now numbering only seven, as they are growing less, have their service, with the singing of the hymns monthly; after which they sew. Remember, please, most of them are seventy years of age or over. The Jackson Church has no minister, having sold its church, but its Alliance lives and is a vital force in the city, playing its own part in all the charitable activities.

Branches from parts of the country where Unitarians are few sometimes believe all Massachusetts branches large and prosperous. Any one who has had such a thought should consider the courage of the branch at Warwick, Mass.

From May 1, 1916, to November this branch had five members, but afterward six. One member resides out of town except for about three months. Average attendance at meetings, including visitors, was five. Articles were contributed to Fairs at Porter Place, N. H., Uxbridge and Montague. One dollar and a half was contributed to the Southern work, and $2.00 to the A. U. A. The program at the meetings was mainly reading aloud. These have been read: "The History of the Alliance," by Mrs. Fifield; "Out of Doors in the Holy Land," by Henry Van Dyke, and several papers, tracts, and sermons.

The following account of the remarkable money raising of the Unity Branch of St. Louis, which has 55 members, should fill us all with courage: "At the annual meeting of the church the members voted to move the church to a more favorable location. At a special meeting of Unity Branch Alliance held in June, the ladies pledged themselves to pay to the church building fund the sum of $5,000 payable in five years. Because we realized that the trustees needed all of the help which we could possibly give them, we had the courage to pledge so large a sum for so small a group of workers.

"Although the heat during the greater part of the summer was intense, we set about at once forming committees to carry on special work to earn the required funds, it being necessary to pay one thousand dollars each year in addition to our regular expenses.

"In fact the members on or off the the special committees worked so faithfully and successfully that on November 24, four days after our annual sale (which was the most attractive bazaar we have ever had) the ladies were able to make their first payment, in the sum of one thousand dollars to the trustees; less than six months after we had with fear and trembling made our pledges."

The Sudbury, Mass., Branch will hold its annual sale and harvest dinner as usual on Columbus Day, October 12th,

at the First Parish Church (for its repair). A barge will meet at South Sudbury trains on Central Massachusetts R. R. leaving Boston at 11.50 A.M. and returning to Boston at 4.07 P.M. Dinner tickets for adults, (of necessity) $1.00. Gifts of articles for the sale will be most welcome and their receipt will be gratefully acknowledged by the secretary, Miss Ellen O. Clark.

Co-operation for Defense

The efforts of women to assist in organizing our National forces for war are in three main divisions:

1. The economic organization, of money raising by Liberty Loans, of food conservation, of household and personal economic adaptation to war conditions;

2. The social organization, of looking after the children in war time, of taking care that in their zeal to take men's places women are not working beyond their strength, particularly in factories, of our interest in prohibition, and in doing our part to make decent conditions around army camps;

3. The organization for the comfort and relief of soldiers, the bandage rolling, the knitting, and the Red Cross.

Alliance women have been pioneers in the carrying out of well-knit and effective organization and in the war organization where an effort is being made to have all women work together, we are doing our part.

Officially the Alliance has been invited to the meetings of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, Massachusetts Division, and to be represented at the meetings in Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Indiana and at the National Meeting in Washington. The President of The Alliance has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Committee of the Woman's Liberty Loan Committee and hsa also been made a member of the Commission of the Unitarian Churches for Food Conservation. This committee was appointed by President Samuel A. Eliot on request of Mr. Herbert Hoover.

Alliance Luncheon at Montreal

The Alliance luncheon at Montreal will be at the Windsor Hotel on Wednesday, September 26th, at 1.30. Miss Lucy Lowell will preside. The chief speaker will be Miss Helen R. Y. Reid, Lady of Grace of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, who will tell of her war relief work in Canada. Miss Bancroft has been obliged to cancel her promise to speak, Mrs. R. H. Davis will take her place. Another speaker will represent the Parish Workers.

The response to the call made at the June Board meeting for books for our soldiers in the Canal Zone was prompt and generous. The following letter of acknowledgement has been received:

Unitarian Women's Alliance,
25 Beacon St., Boston.

Allow me to thank you for the exceptionally fine box of books which you sent to the Fifth U. S. Infantry. I am sure it would have repaid you could you have seen how anxious the men were for them. Our "Crusade for a Thousand Books" has been remarkably successful.

Sincerely,
C. L. Miller,
Chaplain Fifth U. S. Infantry,
Empire, Canal Zone.

The Appeals

The San Antonio appeal is still before the branches and they are urged to send their contributions early for the help and encouragement of the loyal women of our "farthest south" branch in their endeavors to provide the furnishings for their new church building.

Branches are also advised to make their appropriations early in the year for the regular appeals from Meadville and the Pacific Theological Schools and from the Tuckerman School for Parish Workers, not forgetting that they are pledged to the $2,300 budget for work in the Southern Circuit.

Please send all contributions for appeals and Southern Circuit to

Lucia Clapp Noyes,
Treasurer.

Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Mr. Nelson J. Springer, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

The High Summons of the Hour

"Now, God be thanked Who has matched us with His hour," cried Rupert Brooke, the young English poet who gave his life for the cause of freedom; and the words find ready echo in the hearts of the young people of America to-day. That we are living in tremendous times, that the issues of the hour are the very issues of life itself and all that makes life worth living, and that we rejoice in the high privilege of bearing our part in the struggle of mankind to work out its destiny, are the chief thoughts in all our minds. We may have very different parts to play, we may be called upon for a wide variety of service from the humblest to the highest; but what unites us all in the crisis of the moment is the common impulse to service in the highest of all possible causes. Not to have a part in the struggle would be to forego our birthright; to stand aloof from the strife would be to make the great refusal; for in a time like this, when the life and the hopes of mankind are in the balance, to be "above the battle" would be to stand apart from all that is significant and vital in the world.

William James, who is for many American young people the great modern prophet, has a remarkable passage in "The Will to Believe" that is worth quoting at some length. "I confess that I do not see why the very existence of an invisible world may not in part depend on the personal response which any one of us may make to the religious appeal. God himself, in short, may draw vital strength and increase of very being from our fidelity. For my own part, I do not know what the sweat and blood and tragedy of this life mean, if they mean anything short of this. If this life be not a real fight, in which something is eternally gained for the universe by success, it is no better than a game of private theatricals from which one may withdraw at will. But it *feels* like a real fight, — as if there were something really wild in the universe which we, with all our idealities and faithfulnesses, are needed to redeem. . . . Be not afraid of life. Believe that life *is* worth living, and you will help create the fact. The 'scientific' proof that you are right may not be clear before the day of judgment (or some stage of being which that expression may serve to symbolize) is reached. But the faithful fighters of this hour, or the beings that then and there represent them, may turn to the faint-hearted, who here decline to go on, with words like those with which Henry IV greeted the tardy Crillon after a great battle had been gained: 'Hang yourself, brave Crillon! We fought at Arques, and you were not there!' "

The high summons of the hour is, then, to share the dangers and the hardships of the battle in which not merely the cause of one nation is at stake, nor even merely the cause of a group of nations, but in which the future of humanity and — if we follow William James — the very being and strength of God are in peril. Never was there a challenge more splendid to the youth of any nation; and never has the response of the youth of any land been more ready than it is to-day in America. The appeal is irresistible; for it calls upon all the best idealism in us. It gives us each and all a privilege of service that we had scarcely dreamed of before; it makes it possible for us to give "what we have and what we are" in a way that will change the whole fabric of the world, and make it a better and a more righteous place for the rest of time. What we do in this hour will count more than the toil of many years at other times. It is God's hour; and we are grateful to Him that we are living to share its duties and its glories.

But there is a special responsibility which rests upon the young people of America to-day, a burden that is peculiarly theirs. In the heat of battle, it is easy to forget the idealism which sent us forth to fight; in the midst of the long warfare it is easy to let the high motives of the hour of consecration slip away from sight. America is fighting to-day a wholly disinterested war; she is fighting for a wholly unselfish ideal; she is moved by no sordid or unworthy purposes. And it is preeminently the duty of the young people to see to it that this splendid idealism is not forgotten. With them the flame of idealism burns now most clearly, and they must keep its fire alight, though the torches of everyone else be quenched by the dust and smoke of the conflict. America looks to her young men and women not only to give their lives for her, but even more to keep ever before her the vision which they see, to carry into the battle the banner of pure devotion and never to let it waver. They are the guardians of her idealism, the custodians of her sacred honor.

To the young people of our free churches, as to all the rest of the youth of the land, this summons comes with compelling power; and we cannot refuse to answer, if we would. The voice of God is calling, and we have learned how to meet its call:

"We heed, O Lord, thy summons,
And answer, Here are we!
Send us upon thine errands,
Let us thy servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes,
Our years a passing hour,
But Thou canst use our weakness
To magnify Thy power."

The Plans for the Year

For the Y. P. R. U. the coming year is one full of promise and bright hopes. We are beginning the new experiment of concentrating all our resources upon the employment of a field-secretary; and the Board of Directors feel that the Union is most fortunate in having Mr. Nelson J. Springer assume that office. Mr. Springer comes to us from the School at Meadville, and from much valuable service as president of the Meadville Federation. Those who were present at the Annual Meeting at the First Parish in Cambridge last May will remember his enthusiastic and able address on that occasion; and all who have met him agree that he is eminently fitted to undertake the new work with the Union. His coming marks a turning point in our history, and is an event to which many of our most devoted friends have looked forward since the early days of the organization.

By the time this copy of WORD AND WORK is in the hands of its readers, Mr. Springer will have completed his first field trip in our interests. This trip will cover the territory between Indianapolis and Boston, touching at many points along the way. It is too early in the year to give details of the trips which the field-secretary will take during the coming months, but there will be an earnest effort made to include the largest possible number of churches, not only in the East, but all through the country. Indeed, one of the chief purposes of the field-secretaryship is to bring the unions which comprise our fellowship into closer relations, and to make our society a truly national one.

With this in mind, Mr. Springer will send to each of the unions affiliated with the national society a monthly letter, in which he will present some of the practical problems which the unions are facing, and make concrete suggestions as to how they can best be met. The material for these letters will come partly from his own wide experience and partly from the reports which the unions make to headquarters. We shall try to make them as helpful as possible; and we believe that they will prove so valuable that many societies not now connected with the national union will want to become affiliated in order to receive them. They will constitute one of the best arguments for affiliation.

It would be ungrateful indeed not to mention in this connection the generous gift of twelve of our friends, which has made possible this extension of our correspondence. Through the efforts of Miss Emily I. Hargrave, one of our

Directors, a group of friends of the Y.P.R.U., calling themselves "the old Guard," have given a sum of money to the Union for the express purpose of sending out these monthly letters. The thoughtfulness and generosity of these friends will be deeply appreciated by all the unions; and the Directors are glad to record their gratitude.

The principal event of the autumn will be, of course, the biennial bazaar, which this year will be under the direction of Miss Katherine D. Williams, known to many of us as the King's Chapel Student worker. The details for the bazaar will be announced in the next issue of WORD AND WORK. It is enough now to remind the unions of the coming fair, and of its great importance for the financial support of our work, and to ask for the hearty co-operation of everyone with the Committee. With the unusual financial burdens of this year, there is special need that the bazaar be a success; and in this as in so many other undertakings success depends upon the fidelity and enthusiasm of all of us. Team work is what we need to make the bazaar of 1917 the best yet!

The plans for the work at the college-centers are maturing well. We hope now to be able to do all that we did last year, and to extend the work to at least one new college. The Isles of Shoals Association, which last year contributed so generously to this work, is again coming to our assistance. The Association has sent out an appeal to its members for this purpose, and the response has already been generous. There is, however, no limit to the amount of funds that we could use for this work; and we believe that no wiser investment could be found, if the dividends of stronger faith in the rising generation are those desired. The Alliance is co-operating with us most effectively in planning the expenditure of the money at our disposal, and shares with us the conviction that this is a very important piece of denominational service.

Thus the plans for the coming year are shaping themselves in a way to augur well for the future of the Y. P.R.U. They are as yet only plans; how far they shall be carried out depends upon you!

What the Unions Can Do

As the officers of the National Union look ahead to the work of the year, there are certain definite things which they would like to suggest to the local unions. Sometimes the remark is made to us "What can *we* do, to help the National Society? There doesn't seem to be much for us to do." Well, the following five things come to mind as being of immediate importance. Can not your union do at least some of them?

1. Keep the national headquarters informed as to the activities of your society. Tell us who your new officers are; tell us what the program for the new year is; send in suggestions as to any of the many practical problems of your work.

2. Communicate at once, if you have not already done so, with the Bazaar Committee, of which Miss Williams is chairman. Find out what they want you to do; don't wait for them to come to you, but surprise them by offering your help before it is asked. There is a great variety of things to be done for the fair; and the time is short. Write now, before you forget it.

3. Get in touch with Mr. Springer, and arrange to have him visit your union. Speak promptly, so that he can plan in advance for the trip. He may not be able to go to every church; and those that ask for him will be given the preference. If your union needs stirring up, this is the best way in the world to get it.

4. Plan to do something for the soldiers and sailors, who are mostly of your own age. If you are near one of the cantonments, get in touch with the Y.M.C.A., and find out how you can help. But wherever you are, don't let the year go by without doing something in this direction. Remember that one of our Cardinal Principles is Service.

5. Finally, don't forget that the national union cannot do its work without funds. This year, especially, we shall need the financial support of every union, in order to carry out our plans. Make your contribution as large as you can; and make it promptly.

Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, *President*, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Frank L. Young, *Vice-President*, Dorchester, Mass.
Rev. Chester A. Drummond, *Secretary*, Somerville, Mass.
Charles H. Stearns, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.

Prohibition Fight On!

Place "Turning Off the Spigot" in your Town Library

One of the great issues before the country this winter will be Prohibition. The United States Senate has already passed the Shepard amendment to prohibit the manufacture for sale of all alcoholic beverages. When this bill passes the House, it will then go to the States to be ratified. It is expected that the bill will go through the House in December and so the State Campaigns for ratification will then be on.

We must show everybody, first, that Prohibition does Prohibit, i. e., that it does generally work for betterment; second, that experiments prohibiting only distilled liquors, but keeping beer and wine have been repeatedly tried and have never helped much. The brewers will make a great fight for the Open Saloon. They practically won on War Prohibition in the Senate, and by their winning show what a fight is before us. They are placing in our libraries books that represent their side of the alcohol question. We must take care that the other side is represented.

We ask you to put in your library a small book which we will give you free, a reprint of articles appearing last winter in the SURVEY—"*Turning Off the Spigot,*" or, "*What Makes Men Stop Drinking,*" by Elizabeth Tilton. The titles of the various articles are: "What the Nations Drink," "What Grandfather Thought About Drink," "The Early Prohibition Wave," "The Recent Prohibition Wave—Better for Business and Better for Boys," "Is Beer the Cure for the Drink Evil?" and "Do We Want the Gothenburg System?"

You can help by sending to the *Unitarian Temperance Society* for one of these books and giving it to your town library.

PAGEANT SCENES

for the observance of

THE FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

of the

PROTESTANT REFORMATION

The scenes were written as part of a proposed pageant representing the advance of religious freedom through several centuries, for which the episodes have been prepared by the author. The prelude, the one episode and the finale were read as part of a program dealing with pageantry as a method in religious education, given under the auspices of the Unitarian Sunday School Society at Ford Hall, Boston, May 24, 1917. As outlined, the play calls for some sixty characters, but this number can be diminished or increased at pleasure. Simple scenery and lighting. Plays thirty-five minutes.

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AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

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This manual aims to enable teachers to present the divine quality in the human life of Jesus as presented in the ***Gospel*** with such sympathy, insight and emotional appeal that it will become a spiritual influence in the lives of the pupils.

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